(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Coir Board conducts experiments to evolve evaluate new applications of Coir. Some of these new areas include:—

(i) Coir Geofabrics (Coir nettings) for application in soil enforcement, soil stabilisation and prevention of soil erosion in mountain slopes.

(ii) Coir matting for thermal insulation and accoustic control and barricade for sand stowing operation in coal mines.

(iii) Product diversification to promote use of coir needle felts in several new applications.

Central Investment in Kerala

1981. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the percentage of Central Investment in Kerala has declined since 1974;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to increase Central Investment in Kerala in view of the fact that Kerala is a densely populated State where the problem of unemployment is acute?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) The percentage of accumulative central investment in terms of Gross Block in the State of Kerala was 3.3 per cent as on 31.3.74 and 1.6 per cent as on 31.3.87 when compared with the all India investment.

(b) and (c) Central investments are made taking into consideration the techno-economic viability of projects while keeping in view the need for overall balanced regional development.

Cochin Refineries Limited

1982. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Cochin Refineries Limited have approached Government to double the existing refining capacity; if so, what are the reasons due to which permission has not so far been granted and by when it shall be done; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to take over the Cochin Refineries in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) CRL has suggested expansion of the existing crude unit capacity from 4.5 MMTPA to 6.0 MMTPA. Oil Co-operdination Committee are studying the requirement location of new refining capacities in the country.

(b) No, Sir.

Closing down of Indian Oil Corporation Bottling plant at Shakurbasti, Delhi

1983. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to close down the Indian Oil Corporation bottling plant at Shakurbasti, Delhi;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to do so;

(c) how does Government propose to meet the requirements of the LPG consumers in Delhi after the closure of Shakurbasti Plant; and

(d) what is the present position of I.O.C. Bottling Plant at Tikvikalan with regard to the commissioning of various phases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.